REGION 10 OWW TOPIC BRIEFING

TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND REVIEW UPDATE FOR DESCHUTES TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL), THURSTON & LEWIS COUNTIES, WASHINGTON

Meeting Purpose

Provide background information and discuss with Dan the following:

- Overall Status of EPA Watershed Unit Review;
- (b) [redacted]
- Ecology Regional Office Position and EPA Evaluation;
- Partial TMDL Approval Discussions with OGC and HQ; and
- Options for Moving Forward

Project Background

The Deschutes River, Percival Creek, and Budd Inlet Tributaries (Phase 1) TMDL study area (186 mi^2) is located in south Puget Sound and is situated within the boundaries of Thurston and Lewis Counties, Washington (**Figure 1**). The study area includes the major cities or towns of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and Rainier. Significant data collection to support the Phase 1 TMDL began in 2003. Data analysis and modeling concluded in 2012. On December 17, 2015, Ecology submitted the final Phase 1 TMDL to EPA for approval. The submitted TMDL package includes a request that EPA approve allocations for 71 Water Quality Limited Segments (WQLSs) impaired by five pollutants (temperature, dissolved oxygen [DO], pH, fecal coliform, and fine sediment) (b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]

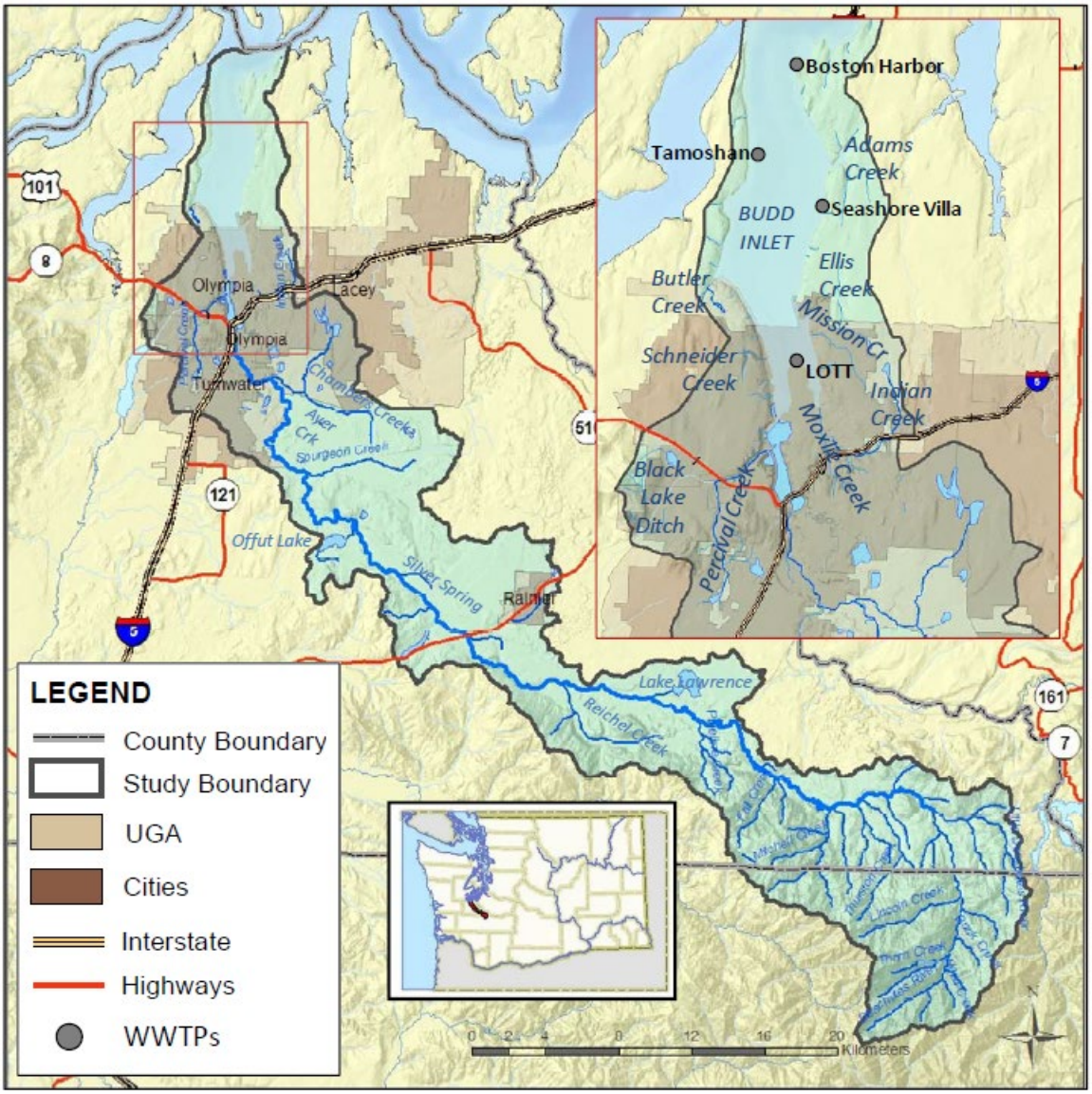

Figure 1. Study Area for Deschutes TMDLs

Quick Summary

- ✓ Ecology is seeking approval for TMDLs that span 71 segments
- ✓ Category 5 impairments: water temperature, DO, pH, fecal coliform bacteria, and fine sediment
- (b) (5)

- ✓ Surrogates are proposed for 4 of 5 pollutants
- (b) (5) [redacted]
- ✓ Ecology predicts that WQS for temperature, DO, and pH will be achieved by 2065.
- ✓ Permittees include: 5 municipal stormwater-MS4s, 7 sand & gravel, 9 industrial stormwater, and 25+ construction stormwater. The boundary of the Phase 1 TMDL does not include wastewater treatment point sources. Phase 2 of the TMDL will include the LOTT regional wastewater facility that serves south Puget Sound.
- (b) (5) [redacted]

Status of Watershed Unit Review

Given the complexity of the Phase 1 TMDL, 6 members of the watershed unit participated in the initial review of the TMDL in February 2016. (b) (5) [redacted]

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Appendix A. Tabular Summary of Discussion with NWEA and Ecology Regarding Deschutes TMDL held in Portland, OR on 8/2/2016.

What follows is an itemized list of key statements expressed by Ecology, NWEA, and EPA. Notes in native, uncondensed form are available. It should be mentioned that NWEA appears to have constructed a bulleted list of TMDL issues that consists of about 30-50 comments on it. Maybe one-third of those comments were shared during the meeting on 8/2/2016.

NWEA	Ecology	EPA
(1) Unconvinced that TMDL will change existing water quality conditions. (2) Downstream waters not protected (self-stated). Failing to protect DS waters is a big deal. TMDLis kind of a shell because it does not deal with DS waters or tributaries. (3) Buffers show up in implementation rather than allocation section. (4) Need to convert shade values into real, implementable surrogates. How was 75 ft. buffer determined? Vertical and areal density is important. What is mature vegetation? (5) The entire TMDL seems to be a surrogate. Suite of shade surrogates may be needed. Why was channel width not allocated as it was part of NCC demonstration. (6) Compliance with permit seems to be compliance with TMDL as WLAs are mostly existing permit conditions or restated WQS. WLAs do not seem to add value. (7) Using shade as surrogate for parameters other than temperature creates holes. (8) TMDL does not assess if current landuse practices, such as forestry, contribute to sediment impairments. (9) Reasonable Assurance section is inconsistent. Should consider actions that are not already occurring. Deferring to Fish and Forest assurances is a problem. (10) TMDL cites nutrient hotspots and impacts but does not limit nutrients. TMDL advocates a 'we'll evaluate later' approach to septics and other nutrient sources. (11) Better to wait until Budd Inlet and Capital Lake TMDL are complete. Maybe move forward with temperature segments only. (12) Lack of NCC is not an excuse to do nothing. Use the data we have and move forward. No good reason for putting things off. The TMDL should	(1) An approved TMDL may help in retiring water rights and obtaining grant funds. An approved TMDL may help bring government partners to the table such as Thurston County and get conservation districts to work together. (2) Acknowledged the TMDL has some deficiencies and is working with EPA on some issues. Benefits of TMDL are relatively minor. (3) TMDL was split because of the contentious nature of Capital Lake and Budd Inlet. Data would become outdated if Ecology waited to do all waters at once. Evidence is pointing primarily to shade and buffers for the Deschutes. (4) Any buffers that Ecology pays for would have to meet NMFS buffer rule (100 ft rather than 75 ft.).	We primarily listened and took notes. Chris asked Nina to elaborate on Columbia dioxin TMDL and checkpoint approach.

have addressed nutrients even if data were not perfect. (13) TMDL does not justify in-stream sediment fines target. How does in-stream fine targets align with WQS? (14) Ecology is hesitant to address Capitol Lake because of benefits as sediment trap, better than a muddy estuary, expensive infrastructure changes (Lake outlet works, MS4, LOTT facility). (15) Checkpoint approach used in Columbia dioxin TMDL is an appealing large watershed approach. (16) Ecology should not get credit for a TMDL when the allocations do not resolve the DO and nutrient issue. (17) Margin of safety and antidegradation section is confusing (18) Would be willing to consider temperature carve out of NCC remand. TMDLs for DO, pH should not move forward until Budd Inlet is completed. Opinion on sediment was limited.		